

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Togo Dennis West, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Pages S3736–38

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Mari Carmen Aponte, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

E. William Crotty, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the State of Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Jeffrey Davidow, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Mexico.

John O'Leary, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

Arthur Louis Schechter, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Page S3738

**Messages From the House:**

Page S3709

**Statements on Introduced Bills:**

Pages S3709–23

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages S3723–24

**Amendments Submitted:**

Pages S3724–25

**Authority for Committees:**

Page S3725

**Additional Statements:**

Pages S3725–36

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total–107)

Pages S3686–87, S3698

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:28 p.m., until 11:45 a.m., on Wednesday, April 29, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S3737–38.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### JAPAN'S ECONOMY

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded hearings to examine the current state of the Japanese economy and banking system and their implications for the United States economy, after receiving testimony from Tadashi Nakamae, Nakamae International Economic Research, Tokyo, Japan; John H. Makin, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; and David Malpass, Bear Stearns, New York, New York.

### YEAR 2000 COMPUTER CONVERSION

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded hearings to examine the potential impact of the Year 2000 computer conversion problem on the U.S. and world economies, and to review efforts to address potential problems, after receiving testimony from Senator Bennett; Edward W. Kelley, Jr., Member, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Robert L. Mallett, Deputy Secretary of Commerce; William E. Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Mortimer L. Downey, Deputy Secretary of Transportation; and Richard A. Grasso, New York Stock Exchange, Inc., Washington, D.C.

### FEDERAL R&D FUNDING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space concluded hearings to examine the state of Federal research and development (R&D) funding in the United States, focusing on America's future role in the dominance of science and technology, after receiving testimony from Senators Bingaman, Gramm, and Lieberman; Kerri-Ann Jones, Acting Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Judith Rodin, Member, President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology, and University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Dan Peterson, DAP and Associates, Winter Park, Florida; and Albert H. Teich, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, D.C.

### MINING LAW REFORM

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management held hearings on S. 326, to provide for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines, S. 327, to ensure that Federal taxpayers receive a fair return for the extraction of locatable minerals on public domain lands, and S. 1102, to provide a reasonable royalty from mineral activities on Federal lands, and to create a State program for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mining sites on Federal lands, receiving testimony from Senators Reid and Bryan; Nevada Governor, Bob Miller, Carson City; Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; Douglas C. Yearley, Phelps Dodge Corporation, Phoenix, Arizona, on behalf of the National Mining Association; Stephen D'Esposito, Mineral Policy Center, and Jill Lancelot, Taxpayers for Common Sense, both of Washington, D.C.; Stephen D. Alfors, Alfors and Carver, Denver, Colorado; Steven C. Borell, Alaska Miners Association, Inc., Anchorage; Stephen A. Orr, Homestake Mining Company, San Francisco, California; and Roger Flynn, Western Mining Action Project, Boulder, Colorado.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

## IRS

*Committee on Finance:* Committee held oversight hearings on the operation of the Internal Revenue Service, focusing on ethics and allegations of abuses and improper conduct by high-level agency officials, receiving testimony from Harry G. Patsalides, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, and Yvonne D. Desjardins, Chief, Employee and Labor Relations Section, Personnel Branch, both of the Department of the Treasury; Ray Cody Mayo, Jr., Louisiana Assistant District Attorney, Shreveport; Robert Edwin Davis, Dallas, Texas, former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice; J. Earl Epstein, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Philip A. MacNaughton, Houston, Texas.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded hearings on S.J. Res. 44, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims, after receiving testimony from Raymond C. Fisher, Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice; Paul G. Cassell, University of Utah College of Law, Salt Lake City; Kathleen Krennek, Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Madison; Robert P. Mosteller, Duke University Law School, Durham, North Carolina; Marlene A. Young, Washington, D.C., and Norman S. Early, Jr., Denver, Colorado, both on behalf of the National Organization for Victim Assistance; and Steven J. Twist, VIAD Corporation, Scottsdale, Arizona, and former Chief Assistant Attorney General of Arizona, on behalf of the National Victims' Constitutional Amendment Network.

## READING AND LITERACY INITIATIVES

*Committee on Labor and Human Resources:* Committee concluded hearings to examine proposals to improve the reading and literacy skills of children and families, focusing on S. 1596 and H.R. 2614, bills to provide for reading excellence by improving in-service instructional practices for teachers who teach reading, to stimulate the development of more high-

quality family literacy programs, to support extended learning-time opportunities for children, and to ensure that children can read well and independently not later than third grade, after receiving testimony from G. Reid Lyon, Chief, Child Development and Behavior Branch, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Janet R. Arnowitz, Fairfax County Public Schools, both of Bethesda, Maryland; Blanche Podhajski, Stern Center for Language and Learning, Williston, Vermont; Catherine E. Snow, Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulties in Young Children, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Perri Klass, Boston Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts; Charles I. Bunting, Vermont State College, Waterbury; Peggy Minnis and Raynice Brumfield, both of the District of Columbia Public Schools, Washington, D.C.; Noel C.R. Gunther, WETA Learning Project, Arlington, Virginia; and Dawnna Lanctot, Danville, Vermont.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE TOOLS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

*Committee on Small Business:* Committee held hearings to examine environmental compliance assistance for small businesses provided by the Environmental Protection Agency under Federal laws and initiatives, environmental self-audits, and State audit privilege and qualified disclosure laws, receiving testimony from Montana State Representative Scott J. Orr, Helena, on behalf of the American Legislative Exchange Council; Benjamin Y. Cooper, Printing Industries of America, Alexandria, Virginia; Elizabeth Glass Geltman, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; James L. King, New York Small Business Development Center, Albany, on behalf of the Association of Small Business Development Centers; and David S. Marsh, Marsh Plating Corporation, Ypsilanti, Michigan, on behalf of the National Association of Metal Finishers, the Metal Finishing Suppliers' Association, and the American Electroplating and Surface Finishing Society.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Bills Introduced:** 9 public bills, H.R. 3734–3742; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 116 and H. Con. Res. 261–264, were introduced.

Page H2423

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 2807, A bill to amend the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 to prohibit the sale, importation, and exportation of products labeled as